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Australia
1927

LOTUS MAJOR

(Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil)

An excellent permanent pasture for moist forest land and bracken country.

LIBRARY

Showing the persistency of Lotus Major among Bracken Fern, etc. It carries a fire well, and recovers rapidly after the burn.

SOME SPECIAL POINTS OF LOTUS MAJOR

1. Is thoroughly permanent when once established.
2. Valuable for moist forest land and bracken fern country.
3. Will stand a fair amount of flooding.
4. Yields fodder practically the whole year round.
5. Has a high feeding value for horses, sheep, pigs and cattle.
6. Is a great milk producer, and thus excellent for dairy cows.
7. Valuable for cleaning up tussocky land and ground carrying bracken fern.
8. Is an improver of land values by increasing productivity.
9. Is easily established and improves with age.

Quotations for Brunning's Lotus Major Seed on Application.

F. H. BRUNNING Pty. Ltd.

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Registered Telegraphic Address: **"Myosotis, Melbourne"**

No. 21227.

A CATECHISM ON LOTUS MAJOR

1. Q. What is Lotus Major?

A. It is the most valuable of the Birdsfoot Trefoils, and is a deep-rooted leguminous perennial **thoroughly permanent** when once established, and very adaptable to different classes of soil. The plants send down strong tap roots, and these, on reaching the clay subsoil, send out laterals, which come up all round the parent plant. On the surface, Lotus Major forms runners, which, rooting at every joint, soon establish the plant and ensure its permanency. Owing to its habit of growth, it soon smothers other grasses and weeds, and is particularly valuable for killing tussocks and checking the growth of bracken fern.

2. Q. What is it good for?

A. Lotus Major is valuable for fattening cattle for market, as a milk producer for dairy cows, or as a pasture for sheep, horses or pigs. It can be cut and cured for hay, which is of excellent quality. It has an **extremely high feeding value,** and may be regarded as **a land improver** owing to its habit of converting useless and abandoned forest country into first-class grazing areas.

3. Q. Can it be pastured?

A. Yes, this is the most economic method of using the crop, and the one most generally followed.

4. Q. Is it likely to become a pest?

A. No, **there is no danger** in this respect. It is too valuable a plant in every way to ever be regarded as a pest. Lotus Major does not appear to be dangerous in respect to bloat, and Brunnings have not heard of any trouble with Lotus Major in this direction.

5. Q. Where can it be grown?

A. It is best suited to districts with a moist climate, and, although generally regarded as a moist ground plant, it also appears to grow well in certain fairly dry situations, and yields medium to good results on land varying from stiff clay to sandy loam. It roots and runs, and soon forms itself into a dense sward, doing well on either hill land or marsh country, while it is particularly valuable in forest country, where the rainfall averages over 30 inches per annum. The most suitable soil is moist forest sand, such as is found in bracken country. On swampy land that only grows rushes and useless vegetation, Lotus Major will thrive, and growing rapidly, soon chokes out the rushes and sags, while it converts sour and abandoned forest country into excellent grazing land.

6. Q. What soil preparation is necessary?

A. The conditions under which Lotus Major is grown usually preclude any elaborate soil preparation, although where possible, a well prepared seed bed will, as with all cultivated plants, do more towards ensuring a good stand, but generally, Lotus Major is sown on a "clean burn," and does particularly well sown in the ashes after burning scrub, especially in damp places. It is easily established on any forest country that will carry a light fire, and once established, is permanent, the stand improving with age. The most suitable fertiliser is Superphosphate, used at the rate of from 84 to 112 lbs. per acre.

7. Q. When is the seed sown and how?

A. Seed of Lotus Major **is generally broadcasted**, and when sown by itself, should be **mixed with dry silver sand,** in order to ensure even distribution. The best sowing period is from the first Autumn rains **in March or April,** up till the beginning of June, although, under suitable conditions, seed may also be sown in August and September. When seeded alone, the quantities vary, and up to **7 lbs.** per acre is sometimes used, but from **3 to 4 lbs. of Brunning's** Supergrade Quality seed will be found ample to establish a good stand, and as the plant soon spreads, any blank spaces are quickly covered.

It is advisable, wherever possible, to **sow just prior to rain,** as after showery weather the seed **soon** germinates, and the plants quickly **make** rapid growth. Where weather conditions are unfavorable, Lotus Major is slow **in** starting, and on this account it is **really** better sown alone, as when seeded in mixtures the other grasses and clovers usually strike first, and are apt to smother out the Lotus Major while it is still in the younger stages of growth.

8. Q. What subsequent treatment is necessary?

A. The plant at first makes rather feeble growth, especially if weather and other conditions are unfavorable, but **once established,** it **is quite hardy,** and thence onwards grows strongly, making rapid progress. It seems to grow stronger and taller in a paddock of bracken fern, apparently appreciating the protection thus afforded. The plants **keep green throughout the whole of the year,** and are thus valuable for adding the necessary succulency to the feed, when other grasses and clovers are dormant. The more closely cropped a thoroughly established paddock of Lotus Major is kept, the better, as close feeding encourages the plants to stool out and spread, while if it is desired to feed green, rather than to graze, the crop can be protected from the stock, when several cuttings will be obtained in a single season. When cut just after the blooming period, Lotus Major makes hay of excellent quality.

9. Q. Is there more than one species?

A. There are several members of the Birdsfoot Trefoil family, but the species dealt with herein, Lotus **Major** or **Villosus** is the **Greater** Birdsfoot Trefoil, and the best of all. Other members of the family most generally grown are the Lotus **Corniculatus** or **Minor** Birdsfoot Trefoil, and the Lotus **Angustissimus or Hispidus,** sometimes known as **Boyd's Clover** or **Giblet Grass.** The latter is only an annual.

10. Q. Under what Conditions should Lotus Major be used as against Brunning's "Tarwei" Strawberry Clover?

A. The points of similarity of these two excellent Clovers are that both will stand flood and revel in moist conditions, both are of creeping habit, and thoroughly permanent, and both yield fodder practically the whole year round. Both are extremely valuable for fattening sheep, cattle, horses and pigs, and each ranks very high as a milk producer.

The principal points of difference in their use are in the soil and class of country. **Brunning's "Tarwei" Strawberry** Clover is valuable for heavy river flats, black loamy soil, salty ground, and heavy land liable to bake and crack in the Summer. It is especially useful for binding wash-outs. "Tarwei" Strawberry Clover is also best adapted to conditions within, say, 50 miles of the sea-coast, and seems to thrive on the salty ocean breeze.

Lotus Major appears to be best suited to land containing a proportion of sand, and gives the best results on sandy marshland, heavily timbered country and sandy forest and bracken fern country. It is partial to the damp, sandy soil in creeks, gullies, and hilly forest clearings, and should be planted for preference on dirty, saggy country, and land that has not been cleared, even if it is heavy ground, and it is especially valuable on bracken fern country.

11. Q. Where should I buy the seed?

A. Secure your requirements from a reliable and reputable source, and be sure of **getting** your Lotus Major **seed pure and unadulterated. Brunning's** Seeds have a reputation of over three quarters of a century, which is a good guarantee as to their Quality and Reliability. **It pays** to always **buy** the **best.**

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